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PSC 323.01: Theories of Civil Violence

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Political Science 323
Theories of Civil Violence

Autumn 2000
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 MWF
Or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Texts: Cindy Combs, Terrorism in the Twenty-first Century 2nd ed

Jennifer Turpin, The Web of Violence

Requirements:

This course has two elements. The first is a survey of various forms of civil violence. The second is an exploration of different theories, interpretations and perspectives that have been offered to explain them. This review will result in the development of a model describing where and under what conditions politically relevant violence is likely to occur and who is likely to participate.

There will be two one-hour exams: the first will be on October 6 and the second on November 10. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam counts for 40% of the final grade. The final exam is scheduled for December 21, 08:00-10:00. NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

Additional work includes a short paper (5 to 10 pages) and a presentation that address some event of civil violence. The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and is a summary of the material contained in the paper. For this assignment, the theoretical material developed in the course will be employed to explain some aspect of an actual incident of civil violence. Each student will select an event to be studied and the most appropriate theory will be assigned. The presentation/paper consists of four parts: a description of the theory being employed, a description of the incident of civil violence, an assessment of the utility of the theory, and a bibliography. Notes and bibliography style of the paper must follow the Turabian manual of style. The presentations will be scheduled during the last two weeks of the semester. A sign-up sheet will be made available for that purpose. All papers are due December 8. This combined assignment counts for 20% of the final grade. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPUTERS AND WORD PROCESSORS. THEREFORE IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE. EARLY PAPERS ARE WELCOME! Given the tight schedule, it will not be possible to reschedule presentations.

In order to make the experience of this course as congenial as

possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

TOPIC OUTLINE:

READING ASSIGNMENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Concepts and Terms | Combs, Ch. 1
Turpin, Intro |
| 2. Conditions and Preconditions | |
| 3. Participants: Leaders | Combs, Ch. 4 |
| 4. Participants: Followers | Combs, Ch. 6
Turpin, Ch. 1 |

First Exam--October 6

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5. Ideology | Combs, Ch. 3
Turpin, Ch. 2, 7 |
| 6. Organization | Combs, Ch. 7 |
| 7. Resources | Turpin, Ch. 3 |
| 8. Terrorism Defined | Combs, Ch. 2 |

Second Exam--November 10

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 9. Terrorism by the State | Combs, Ch. 5 |
| 10. Terrorism and the Media | Combs, Ch. 8 |
| 11. Terrorism and the Law | Combs, Ch. 9 |
| 12. Dealing with Violence | Combs, Ch. 10-12
Turpin, Ch. 4, 5, 8 |
| 13. Dynamics of Violence | Combs, Ch. 13
Turpin, Ch. 6 |
| 14. Conclusions | Turpin, Conclusion |

Final Exam December 21 (08:00-10:00)

Note: October 16 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.